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1.9  
In 3 Hh  
Housekeepers' Chat

Thursday, December 5, 1929

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Subject: "Simple Plumbing Repairs in the Home." Program includes recipe for Date Bars.

Bulletin available: "Simple Plumbing Repairs in the Home."

--ooOoo--

"And I sometimes wish, oh, I very often wish, that I had married a plumber."

My Next-Door Neighbor threw up her hands in despair.

"Listen to that sound, Aunt Sammy. Drip, drip, drip! Is there anything more nerveracking than a kitchen faucet which drips?"

"No, absolutely nothing. Why don't you fix it?"

"Me? Why I don't even know in which direction to turn a screw or a nut, in order to loosen it, or tighten it, as the case may be. A knowledge of plumbing was not required, when I got my degree from the state college."

"No? Well, a knowledge of plumbing comes in handy. Take a screw, for instance, an ordinary right-hand screw, nut, or bolt. To screw or tighten it, first think of the head of the part to be turned as being the face of a clock, and the screw driver or wrench as being the shaft which turns the clock hands. Always rotate the tool from left to right, or in the same direction the clock hands move. Conversely, to unscrew or loosen, rotate the tool from right to left, or in the direction opposite to clockwise. Can you remember that?"

"Maybe. But my immediate problem is to fix the kitchen faucet. Can you tell me how to do that?"

"Perhaps it needs a new washer. I can tell you how to renew the washer of an ordinary faucet. First, shut off the water to the faucet. Then unscrew the nut cap, with a monkey wrench. Take hold of the faucet handle, and unscrew the stem from the body of the faucet. Then, with a screw driver, remove the washer screw at the bottom of the stem. Replace the old washer with the new one, replace the washer screw, screw the stem into the faucet, and screw down the cap nut.

"These directions may seem complicated, but they are really very simple. You can do the actual work in less time than it took me to tell you about it. It's a good idea to keep a few washers of the needed sizes on hand."



"How much do washers cost?" asked my Neighbor.

"About 10 cents a dozen. Fiber composition washers are good for general use, and suitable for both hot and cold water faucets."

"May I ask a question?" said my Neighbor. "Where did you learn how to fix leaky faucets?"

"From the Plumbing bulletin. 'Simple Plumbing Repairs in the Home' is the title. Want a copy?"

My Neighbor said she did, so I have added "Simple Plumbing Repairs in the Home" to her bulletin file.

I've found this bulletin very helpful. Last week I had a chance to try my hand at a new plumbing job. The waste trap under the kitchen sink needed attention. This trap is subject to more or less rapid accumulation of greases, and bits of food, and if they are not removed, they interfere with the flow, and create an unpleasant odor.

Obstructions are sometimes forced down, or drawn up, by the use of a simple rubber force cup, often called "the plumber's friend," which costs about 50 cents. The cup is placed over the sink outlet, and is primed with a little water, in much the same manner as you would prime a pump. The handle of the cup is then worked rapidly down and up, causing alternate expulsion of water from beneath the cup, and suction upward through the waste pipe and trap. Grease which sticks to the bore of the trap can be better removed by unscrewing the clean-out plug on the trap, or by disconnecting the trap from the pipe. Don't I know my plumbing terms?

All my plumbing knowledge I owe to the bulletin. It explains simple ways of doing little things, with the help of a few simple tools, to keep home plumbing in good working order. It tells what to do for clogged water pipes, how to thaw frozen pipes, how to mend leaks in pipes and tanks, how to mend cracks in laundry tubs, and how to mend a break in garden hose. I like this bulletin because it is illustrated. I never could have learned how to clean out a sink trap, without seeing the picture of a woman in a white apron doing this very thing. She spurred me on, to bigger and better achievement in the gentle art of plumbing.

The bulletin on simple plumbing repairs is free. I shall be glad to send it to you.

There is one question to answer today. "Do you have a good recipe for Date Bars?" is the question.

"Yes" is the answer. Here is the recipe. Ingredients, seven. Ready to write? Seven ingredients, for Date Bars:



R-H.C. 12/5

3 eggs, beaten  
1 cup sugar  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 cup flour

1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 cup nut meats, chopped, and  
1-3/4 cups pitted dates

Let's check the seven ingredients: (Repeat).

Stone and chop the dates. Mix the ingredients, in the order I gave them to you. Bake in greased, shallow tins, in a slow oven. When cool, cut in bars, and roll in granulated or powdered sugar. Add more dates, if the bars are to be kept some time.

Tomorrow: "Candies from the Green Cookbook."

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